

Talking Points for CALFED Public Hearings

Location _____

Date _____

My name is _____, and I am an elected director/council member of _____, a member agency of/one of the agencies served by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. As such, we provide water to _____ million/thousand Orange County/_____ residents and businesses.

I am speaking tonight on behalf of my district/city and the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County, which represents the interests of all of the public and private water providers in the county.

The Delta is a critical source of drinking water for 2/3rds of all Californians. As such, we have approached the CALFED process based on the promise by CALFED that it would:

- ☐ Work to improve source water quality to allow water suppliers to meet state and federal standards,
- ☐ That it would ensure a reliable water supply, and
- ☐ That it would do all this in an environmentally responsible manner.

We believe this is the appropriate course for CALFED, and that CALFED is trying to do just that. Nevertheless, the programmatic CALFED Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/EIR) does nothing more than promise to try to achieve what we had been led to believe it would succeed in accomplishing.

We also believe that the PEIS/EIR is an unenforceable plan because it fails to deal with regulatory uncertainty - specifically the uncertainty brought forth by the Endangered Species Act. A CALFED plan for a Bay-Delta solution that can be overridden by the ESA puts the public's water supply and the quality of that supply directly at risk. We strongly believe CALFED must work with federal representatives to develop and encourage legislation that corrects this uncertainty. And it is critical that this be addressed in the PEIS/EIR

Further, we believe CALFED should submit a complete PEIS/EIR for public comment that not only addresses environmental restoration but also includes a water management strategy, detailed assurances, a specific governance plan and a plan to finance the Preferred Alternative.

Each element of the program has ramifications affecting other elements and until the package is complete, agreed upon by state agencies, federal agencies and stakeholders, including exporters of water from the Delta, Orange County cannot support certification and a Record of Decision of the PEIS/EIR.

We in Orange County believe that in order to deliver the water supply and water quality to the public, the following commitments must be included in the CALFED plan and in the PEIS/EIR prior to the Record of Decision.

- 1. The water supply requirements of Orange County must be ensured:**
 - We need a **commitment** that Banks Pumping Plant will be permitted to operate at 8,500 cfs in the first two years of Stage 1 and, that Banks permitted capacity will be at 10,300 cfs by the end of Stage 1.
 - We need a **commitment** that the Preferred Alternative will result in Metropolitan receiving a minimum 650,000 AF firm dry-year yield from the SWP by 2020 (out of a total entitlement of 2.0 MAF).
- 2. The financing must be identified to ensure implementation of the plan:**
 - We need a **commitment** that statewide funding, including public funds and, federal funding will be provided for the environmental and recreational costs of the CALFED Solution.
- 3. The water quality requirements of Orange County must be ensured:**
 - We need a **commitment** that CALFED will ensure the ability of local water providers to protect public health by meeting anticipated more stringent regulations on disinfection by-product and pathogens to protect public health either through water quality improvements in Delta water supplies, or through a cost effective combination of alternative source waters, source improvement, and treatment facilities.
 - We need a **commitment** that CALFED will deliver water quality that meets 150 milligrams per liter total dissolved solids in order to enhance recycling in Southern California, and to promote and expand existing conjunctive use programs.
 - We need a **commitment** to establish a Water Quality Account, including state and federal funding sources, to implement water quality improvement projects for salinity management and public health requirements.

These commitments are not Orange County's "wish list." Rather, they are necessary elements of the Framework Agreement – the fundamental document that created the CALFED program.

The state and federal agencies that executed the Framework Agreement agreed that the alternative solutions will address water quality and effective planning and operation of water export systems in addition to protections for the Bay-Delta estuary and maintenance of Delta levees and channels.

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Many more species beside fish are considered endangered.

Cal Fed should start early to move these species to environmentally sound locations to prevent costly construction delays as in the past.

This effort is something that can ~~be~~ and should be done now during the planning stages.

whether this be

* • conduits

* • underground storage

~~* • above ground man made lakes~~

* reservoirs

prevent flow to ~~reservoir~~
~~basin~~